



COMMUNITY NEWS

District 2

Vol 11. Scottsdale Police Department District 2 Headquarters 9065 E. Via Linda Scottsdale, AZ 85258 (480) 312-5696 Nov. 2005



SAFE SURFING

By: Mark Ruffennach

The Internet is a useful and indispensable resource used for a variety of services. The Internet is utilized to reference information such as airline fares, encyclopedias, news, movie reviews, sports, stock quotes, and weather. Millions of people communicate through email with family, friends, and colleagues around the world. Children use the Internet to "I.M." or instant message their friends, play games, conduct research, email pictures to friends, or to "surf the web."

Technology has allowed children to explore and learn about places, people, and things around the world from the comfort of their own home. Unfortunately, the same advances in computer technology that allows our children to reach out to new sources of knowledge and entertainment are also leaving them vulnerable to exploitation and harm by computer savvy criminals. Seventy-eight percent of children live in homes in which either they or their parents have Internet access. Furthermore, one out of four children who use the Internet has been exposed to sexually explicit material. Children can be easily exposed to pornography or violent content. This information can be accidentally accessed by information searches and can be attached as an image or hyperlink sent to a child in an email or "spam."

The following are some tips for safe surfing for your family.

- Delete emails from unknown senders. Emails can have attachments such as viruses or worms that can be harmful to your computer.
- Talk to children about the dangers of online chat rooms. It is impossible for them to determine whom they are talking to.
- Insist they never provide personal information to anyone online (name, address, school, age, birthday etc.).
- A child's screen name should not have any connection to their real name or their email address.
- Keep the computer in a shared area instead of their room. This allows for additional adult supervision.



From The Desk Of Commander Michael D. Rosenberger

Effective November 27, 2005, I will be assuming command of the Investigative Services Bureau and Commander Burl Haenel will become the new District 2 Patrol Commander. Commander Haenel has over twenty-seven years experience with the department and is excited to become your new District Commander. I wanted to thank everyone in our community for your strong support and partnerships over the past two years, as we worked together to improve the safety and security of the community.

Commander Michael Rosenberg
(480) 312-5710
Mrosenberger@scottsdaleaz.gov

It's your newsletter

If there is something that peaks your interest and you would like to see an article written about a particular subject or a class you may be interested in, please do not hesitate to call or write Officer Mark Ruffennach at:

(480) 312-5695
or
mruffennach@scottsdaleaz.gov

It is the goal of the Scottsdale Police Department to educate its citizens, so please get involved!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Safe Surfing (continued)

- Install filters and tracking programs to monitor the websites and chat rooms your child visits.
- Instruct children not to fill out profiles for chat rooms. Profiles are often public information and accessible to anyone.



Child Safety Education Show

The International S.M.I.L.E. Conference will be hosting its 7th Annual Conference at the Inn At Pima – 7330 N. Pima Rd. Show times are November 17th & 18th from 7p.m. to 9p.m. **FREE to the public and seating is limited** (performances are for elementary school age children)

Construction Scams

Construction, contracting, and roofing scams are particularly common during the monsoon season. Individuals will often represent themselves as legitimate contractors and solicit business by going door to door offering unnecessary repairs to unsuspecting homeowners. Preventive measures can be taken to safeguard you from becoming a victim of a contracting scam.

Tips for Homeowners

1. Always check with the Registrar of Contractors to ensure that a contractor has a current Arizona license that is in good standing. Call 602-542-1525 or visit www.azroc.gov
2. Never hire a contractor that solicits his work going door to door or claims he can give you a great deal on leftover materials.
3. Never pay a contractor in cash only.
4. Always require a written proposal and/or contract from anyone bidding on your job.

Security Surveys

One of the simplest forms of keeping your home safe is keeping your garage door closed and all doors and windows locked. If you are interested in having a security survey done of your home or business, please call Officer Mark Ruffennach of the Crime Prevention Unit at (480) 312-5696. The surveys are **FREE!!!**

WANTED

Are you looking for a rewarding career? Do you like to be challenged professionally? If so, come join one of the nation's leading police departments.

The Scottsdale Police Department is looking for qualified applicants. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Officer Greg Carlin, the recruitment officer at (480) 312-5384 or gcarlin@scottsdaleaz.gov



A HOLIDAY SAFETY TIP

The Holiday Season should be a wonderful time of the year for everyone, but for some it's not. At times we find ourselves out late at night shopping for that perfect gift for that someone special. We occasionally become frustrated with simple things and lose our ability to concentrate. When we take the time to think about the heavy traffic, harried shoppers and fragile ornaments that are a part of our culture this time of year we begin to realize that safety is something that cannot be taken for granted. With a little planning and some extra care, however, the season can be a safe and enjoyable one. Many crime prevention educators say by planning ahead you are much calmer and your chances of becoming a victim to a crime are reduced significantly.

An enormous number of thefts occur in which an item of value such as a laptop computer, brief case, cell phones, golf clubs, etc. are left visibly in a vehicle over night. These are crimes of opportunity that are completely preventable. Sometime we are just too lazy to make one more trip to the car to retrieve our belongings. This kind of theft hurts all of us since it drives up insurance rates, leads to identity theft, consumes valuable police time, etc. The sad fact is that while lightning typically does not strike twice at the same location, that theory does not always hold true when it comes to burglaries or theft. Criminals know that the items taken will typically be replaced and many times the item(s) are better than the one(s) previously taken. So, the rule of thumb here is not to be a victim the first time. Plan ahead and be sure to remove all items that are visible from within your vehicle.